



November 4, 2005

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

SUBJECT: WIC Final Policy Memorandum #2001-5, Revision 1
Treatment of Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance in
WIC Income Eligibility Determinations

TO: Regional Directors
Supplemental Food Programs
All Regions

This policy memorandum provides guidance to WIC State agencies regarding the Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA) provided by the Department of Defense (DoD) to low-income members of the Armed Forces.

Since May 2001, DoD has made FSSA payments to certain members of the Armed Forces and their families. The FSSA is designed to bring a household's income up to 130 percent of the Federal poverty standard, and thus to decrease the reliance on Food Stamps for affected members and their families. The amount of the FSSA, based on household size and income, may not exceed \$500 per month. Qualifying members that receive FSSA may reside stateside or overseas. The statute governing the FSSA program does not prohibit members from receiving benefits under FSSA and the Food Stamp Program at the same time.

Section 602 of Public Law 108-375, the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2005, excluded FSSA income from consideration in determining benefits for household or children in nutrition assistance programs authorized under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, or the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended. These programs include the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the Special Milk Program, the Summer Food Service Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the WIC Program.

Therefore, in determining income eligibility for the WIC Program through September 30, 2006, State agencies must exclude the FSSA payment in determining income eligibility. Please note that Public Law 108-375 amends a standing provision that is not tied specifically to the appropriations process. Therefore, the amendment is effective until the provision expires at the end of FY 2006, unless further legislation is enacted to extend the provision.

/s/ Debra R. Whitford for
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